Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources (NBFGR), earlier at Allahabad and now at Lucknow, U.P. are collection, classification and evaluation of fish genetic resources; cataloguing of genotypes; maintenance and preser - vation of fish genetic material; conservation of endangered fish species and monitoring the introduction of exotic fish species.

The Bureau was set up to achieve the above objectives.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The question does not arise.

National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources

537. SHRI LAKHIRAM AGARWAL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) when was the Indian Council of Agricultural Research's Institute 'National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources' (NBFGR) opened at Allahabad and when was the Institute started to search land for erection of its infrastructure ;

(b) how much expenditure has been incurred by NBFGR towards Land Selecting Committee, Soil Test and Vehicles ;

(c) whether it is a fact that land with less seepage was selected by the said Committee ;

(d) whether it is also a fact that seepage rates of selected land at Allahabad and Lucknow were 12 cm and 25 cm respectively ; and

(e) if so, the circumstances under which 'NBFGR' has been shifted recently (June, 1994) to Lucknow to igher seepage land ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) The NBFGR was established in December, 1983. Allahabad Development Authority allotted the land in 1987 which was found to be unsuitable and thereafter the search for land in Uttar Pradesh for erection of its infrastructure started.

(b) The expenditure incurred amounted to approximately Rs. 20,000/- for land Selection Committee, approximately Rs. 62,800/- for soil testing and approximately Rs. 44,200/- for the vehicles.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The seepage rate at Allahabad as 15.5 cm/day as observed in winter (December, 1992) whereas it was about 24.9 cm/day at Lucknow in summer (June, 1991).

(e) Whereas the seepage rates at the sites near Allahabad and in Lucknow are comparable, the site at Lucknow is the most suitable organisationally and technically.

Drought in Gujarat

538. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Saurashtra and Kutch Region in Gujarat State are affected by severe drought during this year and the people of this areas are facing acute shortage of essential commodities during these days; and

(b) if so, the immediate steps taken by Government alongwith the special assistance provided by Government to the State to save the people from starvation ?